

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Sri Lanka
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	383-005
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$500,000 DA; \$4,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: Three recent pivotal changes in Sri Lanka's political landscape augur well for USAID's prospects of success in supporting improved democracy and governance: the election of a new government in December 2000; the February 2002 agreement for cessation of hostilities; and the ongoing peace negotiations which began in September 2002. The Mission's Democracy and Governance program is currently supporting the peace process by providing assistance to the Peace Secretariat and by helping to build constituencies for peace. A just-completed Conflict Mitigation and Democracy Assessment will form the basis for a reshaped program to promote peace and reconciliation.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

USAID signed a new strategic objective agreement with the GSL in mid-2002 in which strengthening of the newly formed Peace Secretariat was the central element. The FY 2003 program continues to assist the Secretariat and to increase public awareness at the national and grass roots levels of the tangible benefits and future directions of the peace process.

Strengthened Peace Secretariat (\$125,000 DA). USAID resources will provide enhanced management skills and IT capabilities, expanding training for the media unit, proffering expertise from former international peace negotiators on pressing issues related to the peace process, and facilitating demand-driven research and analysis to identify and share best practices and lessons learned.

Expand constituencies for peace (\$125,000 DA). The media's ability to report on core peace-process issues, contributing to an informed, fact-based, analytical dialogue at grass-roots level, will continue to be strengthened by USAID resources. Creative approaches will be sought for peacebuilding, including a planned teledrama to be broadcast in the local languages. Indigenous think tanks will undertake research and conduct opinion polls among key stakeholder groups, allowing the Peace Secretariat to disseminate focused messages to potential spoilers of the process. Access to the expertise of former peace negotiators will be expanded to regional centers of the country.

Initiate new strategy to support peace and reconciliation (\$1,750,000 DA). Informed by the recently completed Conflict Mitigation and Democracy Assessment, USAID will reshape the Strategic Objective as appropriate, select mechanisms and begin prioritized implementation of programs to reduce propensity for conflict among key groups, strengthen capacity for good governance and reform, and expand access to legal/political channels for vulnerable groups.

FY 2004 Program:

The Mission's Democracy and Governance strategic objective, which was designed in FY 2002, is currently being reshaped to reflect the new opportunities and challenges of the peace process. It will be fully implemented in FY 2004, incorporating recommendations from the recent Conflict Mitigation and Democracy Assessment.

Reduce propensity for conflict among key groups (\$1,000,000 ESF). Training and capacity building is planned to strengthen or create civil society organizations, particularly in the North and East, that bridge divided communities through diverse membership and shared, mutually agreed upon development goals. Establishing regional offices of the Peace Secretariat will improve the Government of Sri Lanka's ability to assess stakeholder reactions and maximize responsiveness to citizens' needs and concerns. Regional training for young practicing or aspiring journalists in conflict-sensitive reporting, and support for development of regional media will target hotspots and potential spoilers of the peace process. Civic education aimed at youth will promote social responsibility and democratic values using a problem-solving approach through informal education channels that supports dialogue with local and regional government.

Strengthen capacity for good governance and reform (\$2,250,000 ESF). Constitutional political reform at the national level will be consolidated through technical assistance, research, surveys and mechanisms to disseminate broadly facts on key governance issues and contribute to public debate. The smooth transition to more decentralized governance will be encouraged by resources supporting more transparent, participatory and professional resource allocation and public service delivery in several selected localities. Administrative capacity of national and provincial legislatures will be bolstered through multi-partisan training and development of committee systems.

Expanded legal recourse for vulnerable groups (\$500,000 DA, \$750,000 ESF). Increased access to legal aid for local minorities and other vulnerable groups will strengthen the rule of law by allowing disadvantaged segments of society to assert their rights. Beneficiaries will include displaced persons and recent returnees, female-headed households, women workers, children and the disabled in the North, East and central hill country plantation community. Assistance supporting the establishment of Ministry of Justice mediation boards in new areas, including the North and East, will further promote non-violent dispute resolution while increasing expediency of the formal court system.

Performance and Results: With the election of the new government in December 2001 and the renewed efforts at peace, the Mission seized the opportunity to quickly mobilize resources for the newly formed GSL Peace Secretariat. Technical assistance enhanced the functional and analytical capacity of the Secretariat to respond to specific needs of the negotiators and to build support for the peace process. A South African journalist who played an active role in his country's peace and reconciliation process helped develop a media unit capable of delivering solid, real-time information to the media and the public on the progress of the peace process, and laid the groundwork for future training and peacebuilding projects with local journalists and news broadcasters. USAID also contributed to the design of the EU-funded Secretariat web site, which has become a key source for balanced and timely news and links to other sites related to conflict analysis and peacebuilding. Former international peace negotiators from Guatemala, El Salvador and Northern Ireland were made available to work with the Peace Secretariat staff and negotiators, sharing strategies and lessons learned and providing a sounding board to facilitate preparations for the first round of negotiations in September 2002. Lastly, USAID support and assistance helped put in place structures and strategies enabling the Peace Secretariat to gauge and respond to public opinion.

By the end of the program, USAID support will have strengthened constituencies for peace, increased institutional capacity to implement reforms that consolidate peace and address root causes of conflict, and facilitated greater empowerment of vulnerable groups to assert their rights.

Principle Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: USAID's FY 2003 activities in support of the peace process are implemented through the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Sri Lanka

383-005 Democracy and Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	0	3,000
Expenditures	0	0
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	0	3,000
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	3,000
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	2,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,000	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	500	4,000
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	2,500	7,000